

Claims

1. A water feature comprising

5 (a) a vessel for containing water;

(b) an electrically powered submersible water pump within the vessel for pumping water within the vessel to an outlet of the water feature; and

10 (c) a solar panel arranged to provide electrical power to said water pump;

15 wherein the solar panel is disposed within said water vessel above the water pump and so as to be beneath the water level in the vessel in use.

2. A water feature as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solar panel is arranged to divide the vessel into a first and second chamber.

20 3. A water feature as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the outlet of the water feature is arranged to issue water through the solar panel.

4. A water feature as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the outlet of the water feature is arranged to issue water in the form of a fountain.

25 5. A water feature comprising :

(a) a vessel for containing water;

(b) a water outlet for recirculating water into the vessel;

30 (c) means for connecting the water outlet to the output of an electrically powered water pump;

(d) a solar panel arranged to provide electrical power to said water pump;

35 and

(e) means for transmitting electrical power from the solar panel to the electrically powered water pump;

5 wherein the solar panel is disposed within said water vessel so as to be beneath the water level in the vessel in use, and the means for transmitting electrical power from the solar panel to the electrically powered water pump is below the solar panel.

6. A water feature comprising:

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(a) a vessel for containing water;

(b) a water outlet for recirculating water into the vessel;

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(c) means for connecting the water outlet to the output of an electrically powered water pump;

(d) a solar panel arranged to provide electrical power to said water pump;
and

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(e) means for transmitting electrical power from the solar panel to the electrically powered water pump;

wherein the solar panel, the electrically powered water pump and the means for transmitting electrical power from the solar panel to the electrically powered water pump are disposed within said water vessel so as to be beneath the water level in the vessel in use, and both the pump and the solar panel are supported by the water vessel.

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7. A controller for a solar powered electric device, comprising:

(a) an input for receiving power from a photovoltaic cell;

(b) an output for providing power to a solar powered electric device, said device having a predefined minimum operating voltage; and

(c) switching means for supplying electrical power from said input to said output;

5 wherein said switching means is automatic and adapted to supply power to said output only when the voltage received from said input is equal to or higher than said predetermined minimum operating voltage of said electric device.

10 8. A method of controlling the supply of electrical energy from a photovoltaic cell to a solar powered electrical device, wherein the solar powered electric device has a predefined minimum operating voltage which is above zero; and wherein the method comprises the step of automatically preventing supply of electrical energy from the photovoltaic cell to the solar powered electrical device when the voltage is above zero but less than the predefined minimum operating voltage of the solar powered electrical device.